

IAD/OSS - 64/66
23 February 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Assistant for Plans & Development, NPIC

FROM : Chief, Imagery Analysis Division, CIA

SUBJECT : Advanced Rhomboid Attachment for []
[] Zoom 70 Stereomicroscope

REFERENCE : Memorandum NPIC/PADS/d/6-740, dated
25 January 1966

1. The Imagery Analysis Division has recently completed evaluation of the prototype [] Advanced Rhomboid attachment (2X rhomboid) for the [] Zoom 70 Stereomicroscope. We agree with your comment that this attachment completely meets design goals and extends the life and usefulness of the existing Zoom 70 microscopes, and that the basic design of the instrument could be improved; however, we question the practical value of continuing development efforts along this line.

2. In paragraph two of the referenced memorandum, you proposed to change slightly the external configuration of the rhomboid to permit complete rotation of the Zoom 70 within its support ring; in a meeting with [] PADS, on 17 February, [] OSS/IAD, was informed that complete rotation of the Zoom 70 within its support ring had been achieved by simply inverting the support ring on its present mount (this modification was done by the PADS maintenance shop and required no additional parts or machining of the present mount).

3. In paragraph three of the referenced memorandum you propose that the second model of the 2X rhomboid should include a sliding reflecting prism to permit removing the prism from the optical path so that the Zoom 70 could be used in a monoscopic mode, without the necessity of removing the rhomboids. The IAD's application of the Zoom 70 and the Advanced Rhomboid make this feature a convenient option, but of questionable value, as the Zoom 70's in IAD are very rarely used in the monoscopic mode.

4. In view of the availability of the [] Dynazoom Microstereoscope, the [] Versatile Microstereoscope, and the present development project on the [] Microstereoscope; it is felt that an increase from the present 2X objective to a 3X objective for the Zoom 70 Rhomboid would be of very little value.

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5. The time frame for delivery of a new (model II) prototype Advanced Rhomboid compares favorably with the anticipated delivery of a prototype Advanced Microstereoscope [redacted] The IAD does not wish to find itself, one or two years from now, in the position of having such a large monetary investment in the [redacted] Zoom 70, and its many modifications, that it had lost the option, economically, of considering a completely new and presumably better microstereoscope.

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6. The IAD recognizes some value in continuing development of Advanced Rhomboid Attachments for the [redacted] Zoom 70 as an insurance measure against failure of the development program presently underway with [redacted] however, the IAD does not feel that it can lend support to further development along this line for adoption as operational equipment.

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7. The Imagery Analysis Division appreciates the technical expertise of the Plans & Development Staff; and, if our above analysis of this proposal is in significant error we would appreciate discussing the matter further.

[redacted]

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